1st November 1962] [Deputy Speaker]

(Sri N. Chinnamunisamy Chetty was sitting in a seat not allotted to him.)

MR. SPEAKER : I requested all hon. Members to be in their seats at the time of voting. But the hon. Member Sri N. Chinnamunisamy Chetty has occupied a seat not alloted to him. This is bad.

AYES....28

NOES....75

The resolution was declared lost.

VI. FIXATION OF FLOOR PRICE FOR PADDY AS IN THE CASE OF WHEAT.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member Sri N. S. Ramalingam who had given notice of a non-official resolution on the above subject is not in his seat. So his resolution is deemed to have been withdrawn.

VII.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS LOCAL AUTHORITIES (EXTENSION OF TERM OF OFFICE OF MEMBERS) BILL, 1962 (L.A. BILL NO. 18 OF 1962).

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I move :

" That the Madras Local Authorities (Extension of Term of Office of Members) Bill, 1962 (L.A. Bill No. 18 of 1962) be taken into consideration."

Hon. Members are aware that a state of emergency in the country has been declared by the President in a proclamation issued under clause (1) of Article 352 of the Constitution of India on the 26th October 1962 and that the Election Commission thereupon has decided not to hold bye-elections either to Parliament or to State Legislatures. The ordinary elections to District Municipalities and the Council of the Corporation of Madras in this State have been scheduled to take place in the months of December 1962 and January 1963 respectively. There may be cases of ordinary or casual vacancies, for filling of which elections will have to be held in respect of any of the panchayats also. It has been proposed to postpone elections both ordinary and casual to all local authorities (Corporation of Madras, District Muncipalities, Panchayat Union Councils and Panchayats) to be in consonance with the spirit of the steps taken by the Centre, so long as the said proclamation of emergency is in operation and for a period of six months thereafter and also to extend the term of office of the members of those local authorities for the same period. It has therefore been considered desirable to undertake legislation to enable the government to postpone the elections to the local authorities and to extend the term of office of the existing members of the local authorities specified above, also up to the period aforesaid. It is